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# CURRENT EXTENSION INFORMATION

Reported by Members of the Staff of the Office of  
Cooperative Extension Work during  
October, 1931.

## ADMINISTRATION

C. B. Smith

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Cooperative extension work throughout the United States is not only holding its membership in this depression, but the tabulation for August, 1931, shows a net increase of 28 over the number employed a year ago the same month. The detailed figures for the different groups follow:

### Number of cooperative extension employees, August 31, 1927-1931

Employees	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
County agent work (men):					
Directors, assistant directors, and State leaders.....	105	104	102	101	103
Assistant State leaders and district agents.....	121	121	122	119	117
County agents and assistants.....	2,275	2,318	2,474	2,579	2,615
Local agents (colored).....	150	160	169	171	167
Total.....	2,651	2,703	2,867	2,970	3,002
Home demonstration work (women):					
State leaders.....	48	49	48	51	53
Assistant State leaders and district agents.....	88	90	90	86	85
County agents and assistants.....	889	933	1,152	1,262	1,278
Local agents (colored).....	96	108	123	127	123
City agents.....	7	8	8	6	10
Total.....	1,128	1,188	1,421	1,532	1,549
Boys' and girls' club work (men and women):					
State leaders.....	45	46	47	52	50
Assistant State leaders.....	71	72	77	83	89
County agents.....	149	148	253	249	248
Total.....	265	266	377	384	387
Specialists.....	996	1,004	1,108	1,227	1,203
Grand total.....	5,040	5,161	5,773	6,113	6,141





(2) The National Recreation Association, at its annual meeting in Toronto, October 5 to 9, emphasized the need of recreation in cities and towns as a help in maintaining morale during the present period of depression. This is not a time, it was pointed out, to decrease expenditures for this type of work, but rather to maintain and, in some cases, even expand expenditures for recreational work. Get the idle to umpire games, take part in local plays and pageants, have community sings, etc., was the thought.

#### EASTERN STATES

H. W. Hochbaum

##### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Educational campaigns in home demonstration work. (New York.)

(2) Extension schools for extension workers, with emphasis on instruction in economics. (Utah.)

(3) Coordination of programs and efforts of specialists. (New York.)

(4) Cooperation of growers and manufacturers in sales campaigns. (New York.)

(5) Growers' committees for recommending production adjustments. (Massachusetts.)

##### Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) A county home demonstration agent, Helen Paine of Wyoming County, N. Y., has begun a school lunch campaign. The plans outlined follow the same principles developed in long-time campaigns in agricultural problems, which have been demonstrated successfully to the New York supervisors, specialists, and agents.

The significant features of this item are: (1) The home demonstration folks in New York have begun to see the need for agencies other than the group method of teaching and plan to use circular letters, posters, contests, and other means to carry news on an underlying problem to those who should be reached. (2) The agent and specialist will attempt to reach all mothers of school children and not merely home bureau members. (3) The agent takes the lead in planning work and with the help of local leaders surveys local situations to find local needs instead of taking a stereotyped project and practices and attempting to teach these.





(2) The grape growers and juice manufacturers of western New York are putting over a successful sales campaign. This was planned with the help of the economics specialists, but the outlining of the plans to use stimulative and educative material was done by E. A. Flansburgh, the assistant county agent leader in New York.

(3) A committee was organized in Massachusetts to outline for the onion growers recommendations for much-needed readjustments. The recommendations worked out with the extension people were quite conservative, but the committee functioned as it should.

During the past summer, when onions were selling at about 65 cents a hundred, the extension folks obtained information on the late onion crop which showed that onions were selling for less than they should. The information was passed to the onion growers' committee. A letter which gave only the facts on the late onion crop and carried no recommendations was prepared. It was signed "Onion Committee," and sent to every onion grower. Sales stopped at once. The price rose to \$1.60 and even \$1.75. I believe about 1,000 cars were sold at these more favorable prices. (S. R. Parker, county agent leader, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.)

#### CENTRAL STATES

G. E. Farrell

##### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Purchase and distribution of hay for drought-stricken areas. (North Dakota.)

(2) Survey of food and feed needs in drought-stricken areas. (South Dakota.)

##### Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) The North Dakota Extension Service has obtained 60,000 tons of hay for drought area.

(2) The South Dakota Extension Service is making a survey of food and feed needs for counties. Cattle are now being moved into the surplus areas for feeding.

(3) Sara Dewing, home demonstration agent, Clark County, S. Dak., is having wonderful response in clothing remodeling schools.

Grace E. Frysinger

##### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Modifying of home demonstration programs to meet existing situations. (South Dakota, Michigan, Indiana, Nebraska, Minnesota.)





Specific plans have been made in each State for such activities as the canning and curing of meats, making of sauerkraut, soap making, special recipes for use of wheat, and recipes for use of soft wheat flour for bread. In addition, low-cost menus and variety recipes are being recommended in connection with foods that are most commonly available, such as peaches, tomatoes, apples, and pears, so that families will not tire of them. Rural groups have canned and stored vegetables, meats, and fruits in excess of their own needs to be available for near-by rural families as needed and to donate.

It is probable that South Dakota, Michigan, Indiana, and Nebraska will put on special meetings to present food conservation and low-cost recipes as well as clothing renovation and reconstruction. In Minnesota and North Dakota this type of information will be given through modifying current project work.

Gardening, hotbeds, and garden pests have also been added or reemphasized for this year and next year.

The whole home demonstration program as an economic factor in rural life, the economic value of good health, purchasing wisely, the value of the garden, home canning of meats and poultry, use of eggs, wise expenditure of energy, how to beautify the home without use of cash, have all been emphasized.

(2) Instruction of local leaders of food and clothing clinics by home demonstration agents. (Michigan and Nebraska.)

(3) Preservation and storage of surplus home-grown foods by members of home demonstration groups for the use of social service agencies. (Michigan and Nebraska.)

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Demonstration gardens, 100 by 200 feet, planned according to college recommendations, follow-up of nutrition project, Ottawa County, Mich.

(2) The home maker as a purchaser. (Michigan.)

(3) Home demonstration staff services cooperated to promote agricultural projects such as use of Michigan varieties of potatoes; use of milk; killing, dressing, and canning of poultry; electrical equipment; truck for farm and home; installing septic tank; conducting exhibit train to emphasize conservation plans, landscape gardening, foods, bedding, decoration, health, and sanitation. (Michigan.)

(4) Beautifying the home at no cost of money. (Michigan.)

(5) A home marketing project with 463 members. (Michigan.)

(6) Use of wheat recipes disseminated through home demonstration groups, study clubs, and radio. Some millers agreed to grind wheat at almost no cost. (Nebraska.)





(7) Home-management county fair exhibits. (Nebraska.)

(8) Home accounts summary and stories - 468 women have kept home accounts at least one year. (Nebraska.)

(9) Special food and clothing clinics. (South Dakota.)

(10) Canning and clothing conservation demonstrations.  
(Indiana.)

(11) In Hennepin County, Minn., the civic relief society obtained a garden lot space for county dependents. The gardens were fine and ripened to maturity but no provision had been made for canning or storage. A message to the home demonstration agent resulted in her sacrifice of part of her vacation to plan and execute a canning plan. A tent was borrowed, stoves were lent, and the tent was erected among the gardens. A woman was employed to supervise the canning of the products by the garden growers themselves.

H. W. Gilbertson

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Purchase of hay for feeding in drought-stricken counties.

(2) Food canning and storage resulting in a heavier demand for containers.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Special exhibit on the subject, "Why buy food when you can grow it?" in use in Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

R. A. Turner

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Encouragement of family partnership for young men and women who are beyond the club age. (Minnesota.)

(2) No large increase in 4-H club enrollment in dairy or baby-beef clubs is expected in the Central States under present conditions. A satisfactory increase in the volume of club work in other projects is evident.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) The 4-H forestry club work in Wisconsin, largely devoted to reforestation and farm wood-lot improvement, with 900 members in 16 to 18 counties.





(2) The activities of these club members are of two general types - reforestation and farm wood-lot improvement. During this past year, two State forestry camps were conducted in the cut-over area of northern Wisconsin, with only forestry club members in attendance. The programs consisted almost entirely of instruction pertaining to forestry, and were under the direction of Mr. Trenk, State extension forester, and Mr. McNeel, assistant State club leader. (W. McNeel, assistant State club leader, College of Agriculture, Madison, Wis.)

(3) Boys' and girls' 4-H club activities at the National Dairy Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., October 12 to 17, 1931:

- 500 4-H club members from 31 States in attendance.
- 24 States in cattle-judging contest, won by Oklahoma.
- 21 States in dairy-production demonstrations, won by Massachusetts.
- 9 States in dairy-utilization demonstrations, won by Massachusetts.
- 13 States in poultry demonstrations, won by Massachusetts.
- 252 head of cattle exhibited by club members - 55 Holsteins, 91 Jerseys, 51 Guernseys, 36 Ayrshires, and 29 Brown Swiss.
- Junior, senior, and grand champion female Guernseys in open class shown by club boys from Nebraska and Kansas.

(4) County extension program in dairying for Ralls County, Mo. This program won the award of the Dairy Science Association for the best county extension program in dairying.

#### SOUTHERN STATES

C. L. Chambers

##### Activities or conditions noted:

- (1) Adoption of live-at-home programs. (Florida.)
- (2) Banker-farmer programs with directed credit as a basis for another year. (Georgia.)

#### EXTENSION STUDIES

M. C. Wilson

##### Activities or conditions noted:

- (1) Large amount of home canning done this year.
- (2) Professional training of agents already in service.





Interest in professional training for extension workers has been greatly increased in both Mississippi and Louisiana because of the recent action of their State colleges in extending sabbatic leave to extension workers. Both the University of Louisiana and the University of Arkansas are desirous of receiving the cooperation of this office in setting up short professional training courses in connection with the 1932 summer session or at some other season of the year.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Twenty thousand quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats were canned this year on a single plantation near Marked Tree, Ark. The wife of the plantation owner stated that she had canned 500 quarts for her own use for the first time since she had been keeping house. That this situation is not peculiar to those sections of the country which suffered most from the drought last year is shown by the statement of a wholesale grocer of Oneonta, N. Y. He reported that he had sold two carloads of fruit jars this season, which was greatly in excess of normal sales. He stated that the increased interest in canning began during 1930.

VISUAL INSTRUCTION AND EDITORIAL WORK

Reuben Brigham

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The North Carolina Extension Service will not hold an annual conference this year. Instead, a series of 10 sectional conferences will be held in December and January, which will be attended by county extension agents and leading farmers and business men of the section. Director Schaub and his staff will be represented at each of these conferences. The thought is that in this way much stronger support will be obtained in each section for the balanced farming program which is being worked out for 1932.

(2) Kansas has succeeded in reorganizing its radio broadcasting facilities. L. L. Longsdorf, who is in charge of the radio program for the institution, recently sent out to all concerned with broadcasting from the institution a comprehensive news-letter, making suggestions as to how the service may be improved, how the presentation of subjects may be correlated and ways in which effective follow-up may be given to radio presentation in carrying on a project.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) A farm-product utilization day was staged recently at Lawrence, Kans. Through this medium it was thought to combine industry and agriculture in a united campaign for the utilization of Kansas farm products. Over 15,000 people attended the event.





(2) Pennsylvania recently held a special potato exhibit or exposition at State College at which both agricultural and commercial interests had exhibits. The exhibit was a means of concentrating all interested groups in the State on the utilization of potatoes and the strengthening of the industry.

C. H. Hanson

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) In Alabama the results of intensive work in food preservation were revealed in the August reports of 30 of the home demonstration agents.

The Arkansas Extension Service reports that in the 55 counties in the State where home demonstration agents are employed, 260,244 families have been actively engaged in canning the winter food supply. The housewives in these homes have canned 16,705,227 quarts of fruits; 11,166,015 quarts of vegetables; 373,270 quarts of meat (principally chicken); 159,202 quarts of fruit juices; 1,306,014 pints of preserves, marmalades, and jams; 830,799 pints of mixed pickles and relishes; have made 853,654 glasses of jelly; 510,940 gallons of sauerkraut; and have dried 409,532 pounds of fruits and 510,940 pounds of vegetables.

(2) The Alabama Extension Service has found it necessary to discontinue its monthly publication, "The Digest," because of the financial stringency.

SUBJECT-MATTER SPECIALISTS

Miriam Birdseye

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Growing home gardens, especially fall gardens.

(2) Canning vegetables, fruits, and meats. A compilation of State extension publications on the subject of home gardening and food preservation shows that practically every State has issued new or revised directions for gardening, and for canning and preserving. A large number of States recommend canning and storing in accordance with the food-preservation budget. A few States are recommending methods for home drying, and several have published suggestions on buying foods.

(3) Use of food-preservation budgets.

(4) Cooperation in home and community canning activities of unemployment and relief agencies.





(5) Instruction of negro extension agents in subject matter and extension methods. At Petersburg, Va., August, 1931, the work given on clothing budgets by Mrs. Dora R. Barnes of Texas, on use of whole and cracked wheat by Martha R. McPheeters of Oklahoma, on method demonstrations by Sallie Hill of Texas, and on home nursing by Camilla Weems, colored State home demonstration agent of Georgia, was admirably suited to the needs of the colored home demonstration agents in carrying out both their regular and their emergency programs.

C. F. Close

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Growing home gardens. Home garden work was stimulated by the general business depression and by the drought of 1930. Extension workers and the National Red Cross were instrumental in having many thousands of home gardens planted this year.

(2) Home-yard improvement. Second only to home garden work in amount is the work in home-yard improvement. The call for help was so insistent that several States put on full-time workers in the last year or two. Hampden County, Mass., has a full-time landscape man. The State roads commissions of several States have put on landscape men to beautify public highways. Women by the thousands are demanding help and are getting it. County home agents are training for this work, and many of them have from 100 to 150 of their own demonstrations in their counties. In States without a specialist along this line the horticultural specialist is doing this work and doing it well.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Pruning and training young fruit trees. This is a good demonstration in pruning young apple, pear, peach, cherry, and prune trees. (J. T. Brogger, extension horticulturist, Washington State College, Pullman, Wash.)

(2) Demonstrating the exact time to spray apples to control insects and diseases. This is an outstanding piece of spray service work. Fruit growers are told by daily papers, county agents, post cards, and the radio, just when to spray, why it is necessary, and what to use. (Fred Cole, Hampden County extension service, Springfield, Mass.)

O. S. Fisher

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Expectation all through the West and Northwest that there will be a seed and feed loan for 1932.

(2) The Red Cross plans to feed 12,000 farm families in Montana this winter.





(3) Plans are developing to have the Federal Farm Board, co-operating with private mill and elevator companies, save seed for planting in drought counties of North Dakota and Montana. It is estimated that 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 bushels will be needed. This seed is to be sold at cost plus handling charge and is to be inspected for freedom from weed seed before being delivered to farmers.

R. J. Haskell

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Weed control. Due to rapid spread of noxious weeds, an increasing realization of their importance, and the development of effective chemical weed killers, an increased activity is noted in weed control, especially in mid-Western and Western States.

M. P. Jones

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Control of Hessian fly by planting wheat at a safe seeding date.

(2) Economy effected in spraying through observing insect abundance and omitting unnecessary sprays.

C. D. Lowe

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Meat preservation in connection with "live-at-home" programs.

(2) Utilization of the great volume of feed produced in 1931 by setting up livestock finishing projects.

(3) Pasture improvement to reduce cost of livestock production.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Meat preservation in Texas. (Roy W. Snyder, meat specialist, Texas Extension Service, College Station, Tex.)

(2) Finishing livestock in Texas. (John H. Jones, assistant animal husbandman, Texas Extension Service, College Station, Tex.)

(3) Pasture improvement. (L. A. Richardson, animal husbandry specialist, Tennessee Extension Service, Knoxville, Tenn.)

(4) Mixed farming in the Wheat Belt. (Hector G. McDonald, extension animal husbandman, Washington Extension Service, Pullman, Wash.)



E. M. Nighbert

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Steady movement of cooperative livestock association shipments.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Volunteer cooperation on the part of dairymen in Del Norte County, Calif., in the control of Bangs disease and parasites in cattle.

(2) Horse-bot control in Missouri, inaugurated by A. M. McCapes, extension veterinarian in that State.

Mary Rokahr

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Organization of emergency home-management programs.  
(Montana)

(2) Emphasizing dry cleaning in the home. (New Jersey)

H. L. Shrader

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Marketing of the 1931 turkey crop.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) At Delta, Colo., a regional turkey school was held where the new Government grades were explained and demonstrated. The growers are very much interested in having the consumer get the full benefit of the grade or quality of the bird they produce. The Northwest turkey pool is a selling agency for many local pools. Information on how to produce the quality birds is in demand by the county agents.

Gertrude L. Warren

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Organization of county club leaders' associations. An increase in county club leaders' associations was observed on a trip through the West. State club leaders say that when local leaders have an association of their own, they assume more responsibility and meet more regularly as well as more often.

(2) 4-H club endeavors to meet the economic situation.

(3) Development of programs for older girls and boys.





AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS EXTENSION

H. M. Dixon

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Holding of regional outlook conference in Central States. There were 163 extension workers in attendance, of whom 40 per cent were county agents. The interesting thing was their interest in knowing more about economic information available and its application to their county problems. They desire more informational or training schools to help them understand the material and gain the necessary confidence in their own ability to make interpretations with farmers.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Agricultural adjustment conference in Illinois in October.

A. E. Mercker

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Local bankers base credit to farmers on inclusion of growing of gardens and of food and feed crops in their production plans. (Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina)

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Potato growers' plan for retailing their crop in New Orleans worked out through the county agent at Houma.

(2) Exchange of carload of Canadian seed potatoes for carload of Virginia sweetpotatoes for food. (New Brunswick Potato Growers' Association of Canada, and potato growers of Accomac County, Va.)

Eugene Merritt

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Supplying price information on corn. In Nebraska there has been a great deal of discussion of the agitation taking place both in Iowa and Nebraska for a plan whereby the farmers would sign an agreement not to sell their corn until the price reached 60 cents. In Nebraska the director called a conference of his college workers and the staff of the department of agricultural economics to discuss all the facts relating to the present corn situation and what would have to happen for corn to reach this price level, not only with reference to the corn itself but to the livestock to which the corn could profitably be fed at this price. The purpose of the conference was to fortify extension workers, both at the college and in the county, to meet this agitation and to get a factual background.





D. W. Watkins

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The value of extension work is being questioned by appropriating bodies in a number of States.

The reason seems to be that agricultural interests continue to be depressed in spite of many years of extension effort. My feeling is that there is need for better quality extension work as there is need of better quality in commodities. Demonstrations need to be better thought out and better supervised. Agents need more economic conferences to enable them to discuss economic subjects more intelligently with farm leaders and in meetings. Leaders will thus be easier to convince that during this economic war it would be bad policy to dispense with the soldiers in the field.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) This year's "live-at-home" program in Arkansas was a most effective and timely piece of leadership. (T. Roy Reid, assistant director of agricultural extension service, Little Rock, Ark.)

(2) The home garden work in South Carolina. (A. E. Schilletter, extension horticulturist, Clemson College, S. C.)

(3) The poultry marketing work in Texas. (O. B. Martin, director of extension service, College Station, Tex.)

(4) Plans for training county agents in a summer economic short course at Louisiana State University. (M. J. Voorheis, extension economist, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.)

(5) The use of economic information in suggesting farm adjustments. (C. A. Sheffield, assistant director, extension service, Raleigh, N. C.)

J. K. Wallace

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Shortage of feed in range country of eastern Montana and western North Dakota. The families of several thousand wheat and grain growers and small dry-land stockmen face a miserable situation this winter. When you consider that many square miles of territory did not produce a wagonload of grain per farm and many elevators never shipped a car of grain to market but, on the other hand are bringing in feed grain, you can realize the lack of money in whole communities.

Cattlemen apparently are the only ones with even small credit at the local banks, and their buying of these Russian thistles from former wheat raisers at about \$4 per ton has given the latter some very badly needed quick money. Banks however are insisting rather strongly





that stockmen move their market stock early in order to bring some cash into the local communities as liquid funds are very scarce everywhere.

The Federal drought seed and feed loans have helped greatly, and everywhere I hear favorable comment on the work of the men in charge. Much further good will is expected as a result of the new and more lenient terms governing later or new loans.

(2) Harvesting of Russian thistles for hay or silage in range territory of eastern Montana and western North Dakota. On abandoned and fallow lands and on the wheatlands the crop of Russian thistles being harvested now for hay or for silage is going to play a big part in the winter livestock feed ration, and it is being gathered as never before. Thousands of head of stock in Montana and the Dakotas will learn whether there is any food value in the weed or not. It is said to be an intestinal irritant if fed in too large a proportion and may do more harm than good.

(3) Harvesting of late-sown forage crops in range territory of eastern Montana and western North Dakota. Old-time stockmen are predicting and preparing for a winter on the order of the miserable cold season of 1919. They say that summer was dry and hot, range was eaten off, and water scarce when winter came, and the severe weather wiped out thousands of head of stock. Range men with farm land have planted late millet, oats, rye, and sweetclover to increase the supply of forage and of hay in order to hold down cash grain purchases and get stock through. One good thing is that cottonseed cake is very cheap, ranging from \$24.50 to \$26 delivered. This price is lower than it has been quoted for years. In many sections the cattle still look good, the grass having turned to hay, but there is little feed ahead.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Feeding of supplemental concentrates to range cattle in Utah in connection with shortage of local feeds. (E. J. Maynard, animal husbandman, Utah Extension Service, Logan, Utah.)



